

Virginia Children's Services System Transformation



Virginia's child-serving agencies are improving the way we help at-risk children and their families to achieve:

Success in life;

Safety for children and communities;

Life in the community;

Family based placements; and

Life-long family connections.



Transformation

Key Achievements to Date

- Children's Services System Transformation began in December, 2007 with the establishment of the Council on Reform (CORE).
- A new position, the Special Advisor for Children's Services, was created to lead the transformation.
- Legislative package was approved which included:
 - Increase in foster care reimbursement,
 - funding for training and resource family recruitment, and
 - funding incentives for the provision of community based services.
- Policy Clarifications and Training
- Implementation of Intensive Care Coordination
- Partnership Development and Collaboration
- Systemic Outcomes



Council on Reform (CORE)

- Partnership since December, 2007 with thirteen targeted localities to develop a shared vision for Children's Services and implement best practices at the state and local level
- Membership consisted of representatives from thirteen geographically diverse localities that accounted for almost 50% of the statewide foster care population
- Workgroups focused on the development of a Practice Model and implementation of "Building Blocks" or best practices of Transformation
- Provided a "safe" place for localities to embrace and celebrate change
- The Annie E. Casey Foundation has been providing extensive financial and consultative assistance in this work.



Key Outcomes to Date

December 2007 - Present

- A 48% drop in the number of children in group based care. 54% in CORE localities.
- A 22% drop in the number of children in foster care. 28% in CORE localities.
- An increase in discharges to permanency from an annual average of 62% to 70%. Last month was 82%.
- A 58% increase in spending for community based care while overall annual expenditures decreased by 4% (\$36M).



Transformation Strategy for Change



Virginia Children's Services Practice Model

We have developed a common philosophy and set of values that has helped to shift practice to achieve better outcomes for youth and families.

We believe:

All children and communities deserve to be safe.

In family, child, and youth-driven practice.

Children do best when raised in families.

All children and youth need and deserve a permanent family.

In partnering with others to support child and family success in a system that is family-focused, child-centered, and community-based.

How we do our work is as important as the work we do.



Culture Change

- Established foundational values and driving philosophy (practice model).
- Identified and inspired local champions/leaders
- Established state leadership structure for Transformation
- Developed Transformation specific communications tools like website, public information TV spot, Op-ed pieces, and annual report
- Established financial incentives for community based services
- Used data, research, and personal inspirational stories to support the need for change



Culture Change

- Spread the word/inspired change:
 - Special Advisor Regional Meetings
 - 12 Regional Transformation Forums
 - 20 plus Best Practice Court presentations
 - Multiple conference presentations/meetings
 - Governor's Conference on Children's Services Transformation
- Transformation Academy
- Established and routinely reported on outcomes – "Safe Measures"
- "Agents of Change" Leadership Program



Building Blocks of the Transformation

Community-Based Continuum – Developing, funding and sustaining a continuum of services that will meet the needs of every child and ensure that when at all possible, children receive the services that they need within their own home and community.

Statewide Training System – A comprehensive, competency based training system built on the practice model and accessible across Virginia

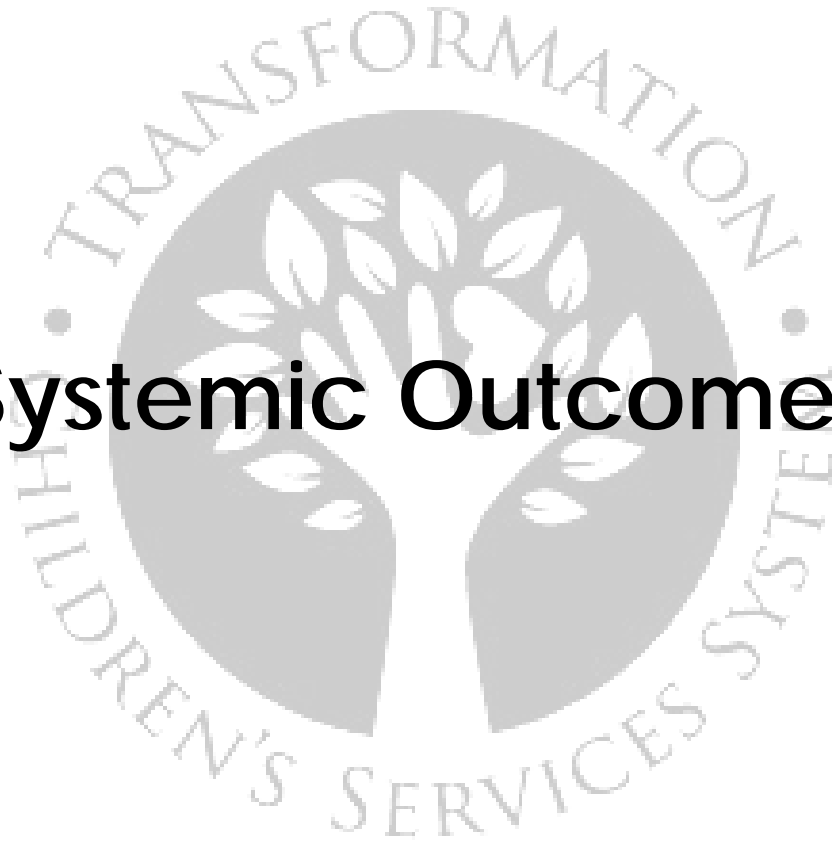
Resource Family Recruitment, Development and Support – Finding, training and supporting resource and adoptive families to provide permanent connections for youth in foster care

Managing by Data – Using data to guide our decision making and using our desired outcomes to drive practice

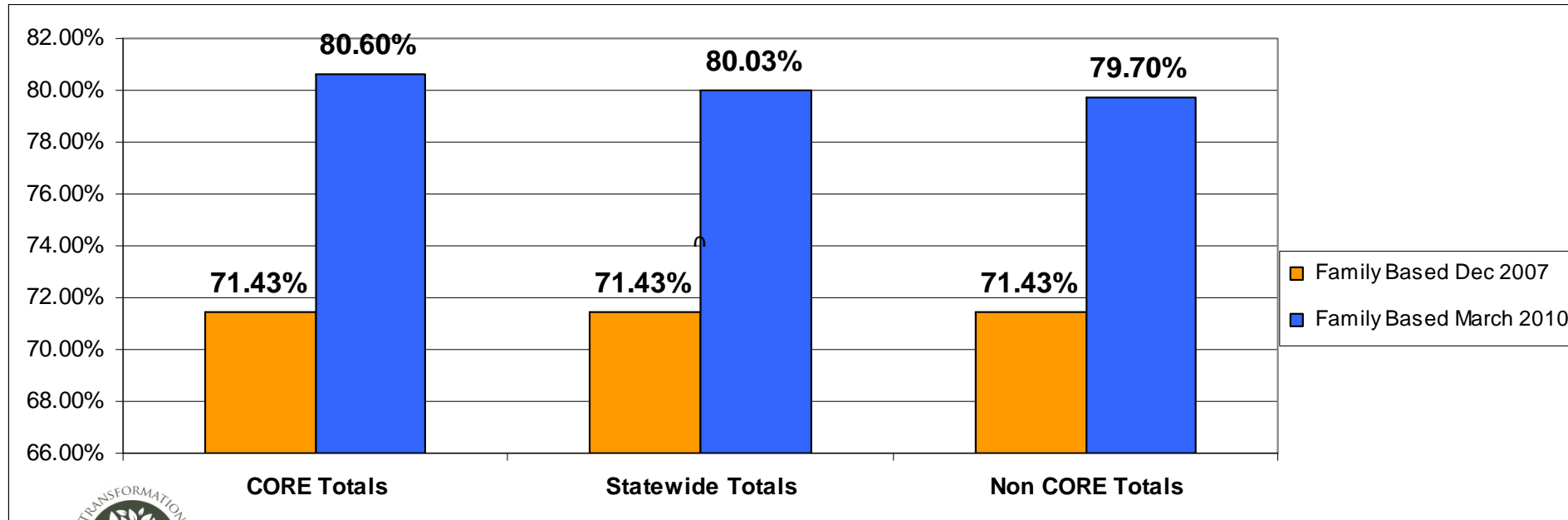
Family Engagement Model – Engaging families in a deliberate way by giving them a voice in what happens to their families and their children.



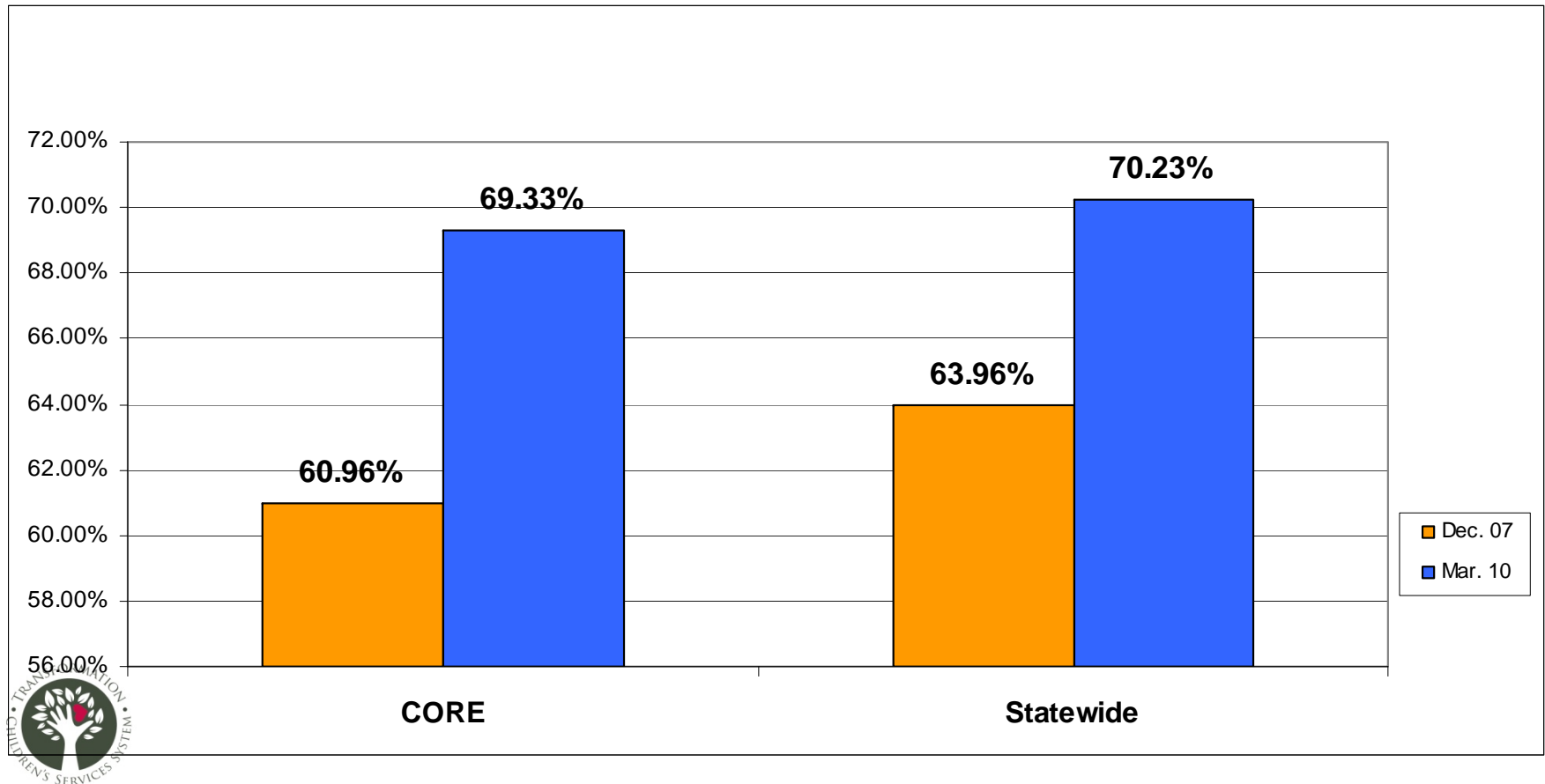
Systemic Outcomes



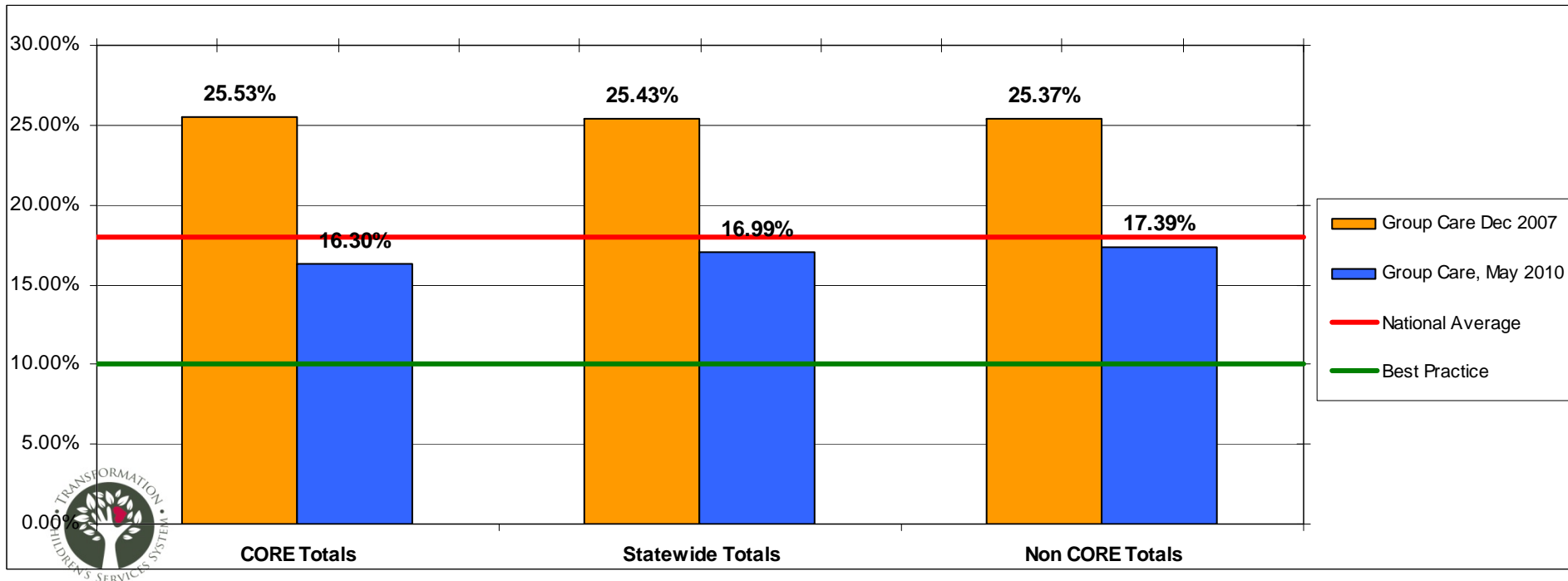
More Youth in Foster Care are Placed with Families



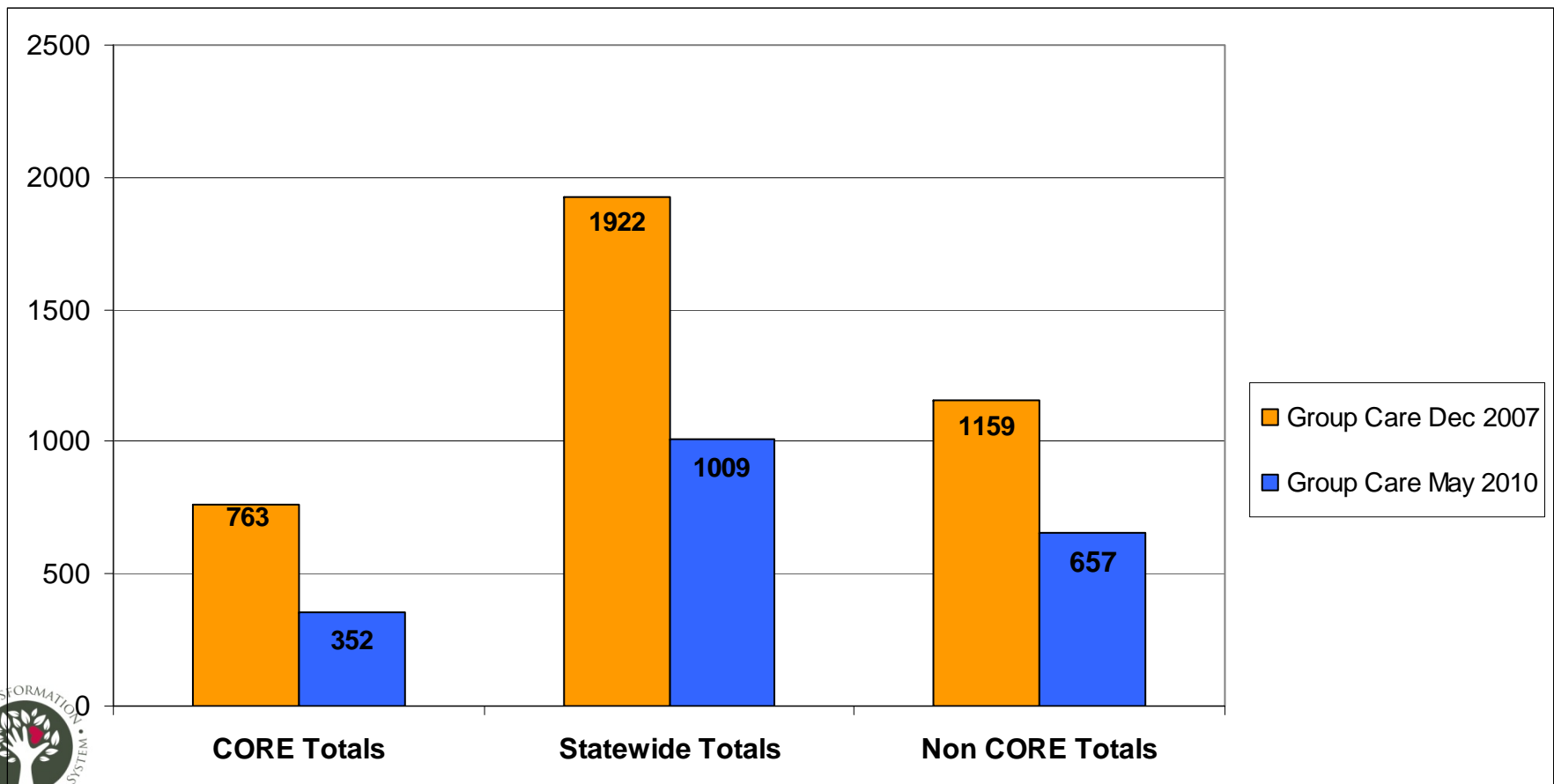
More Youth are Discharged from Foster Care to Permanency



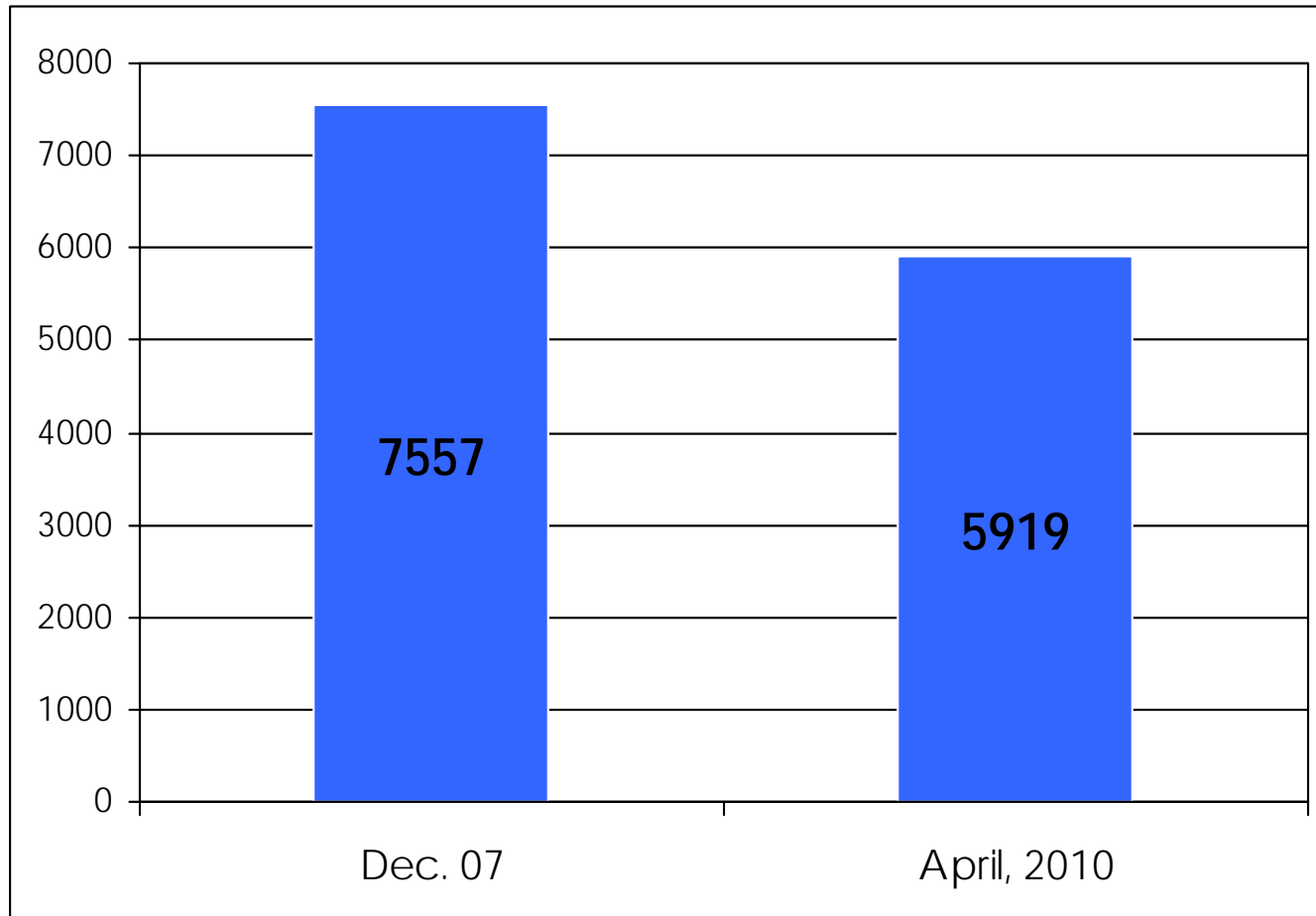
Fewer Youth in Foster Care are Placed in Group Settings



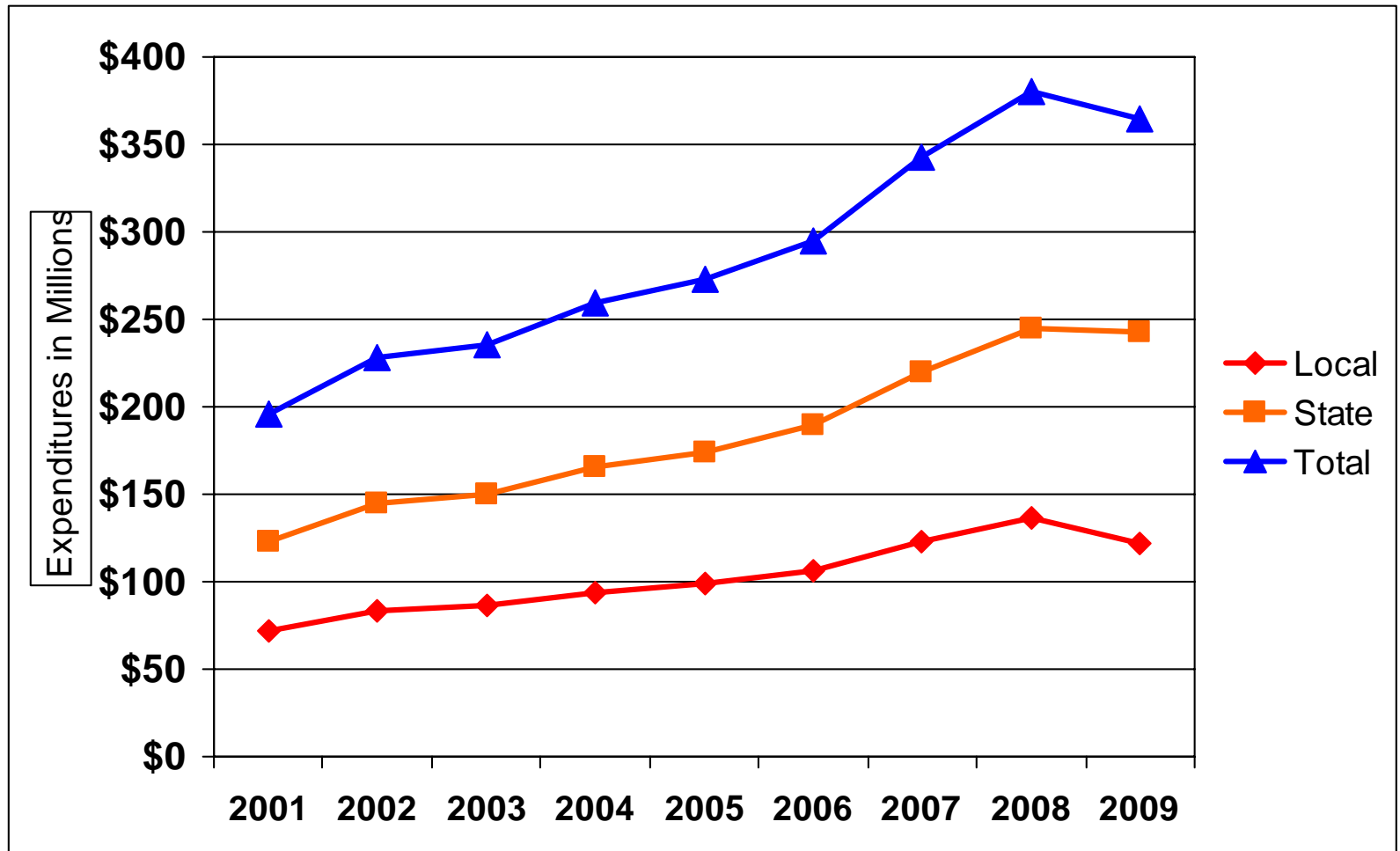
Numbers of Children in Group Care



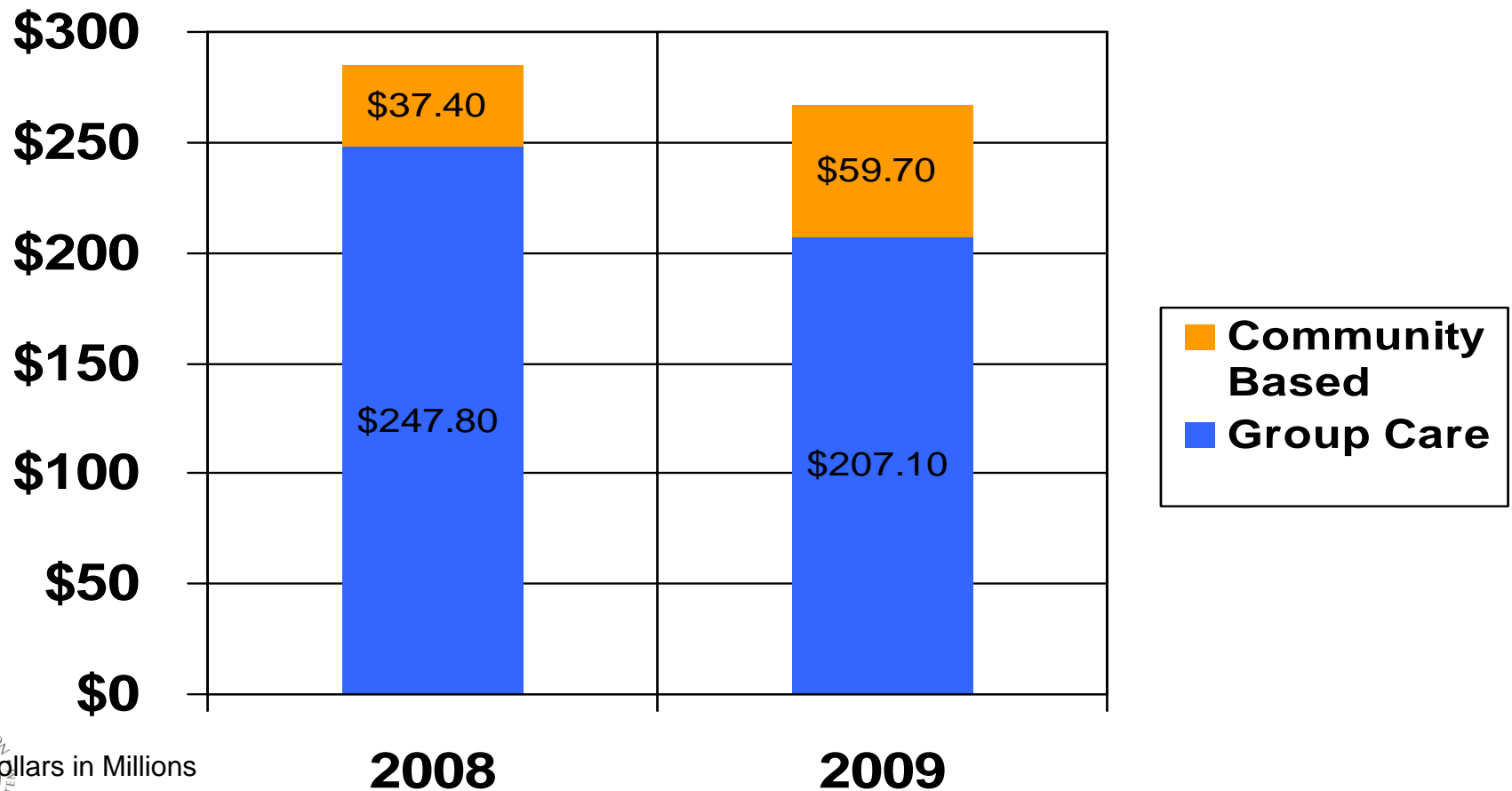
Fewer Total Youth in Foster Care



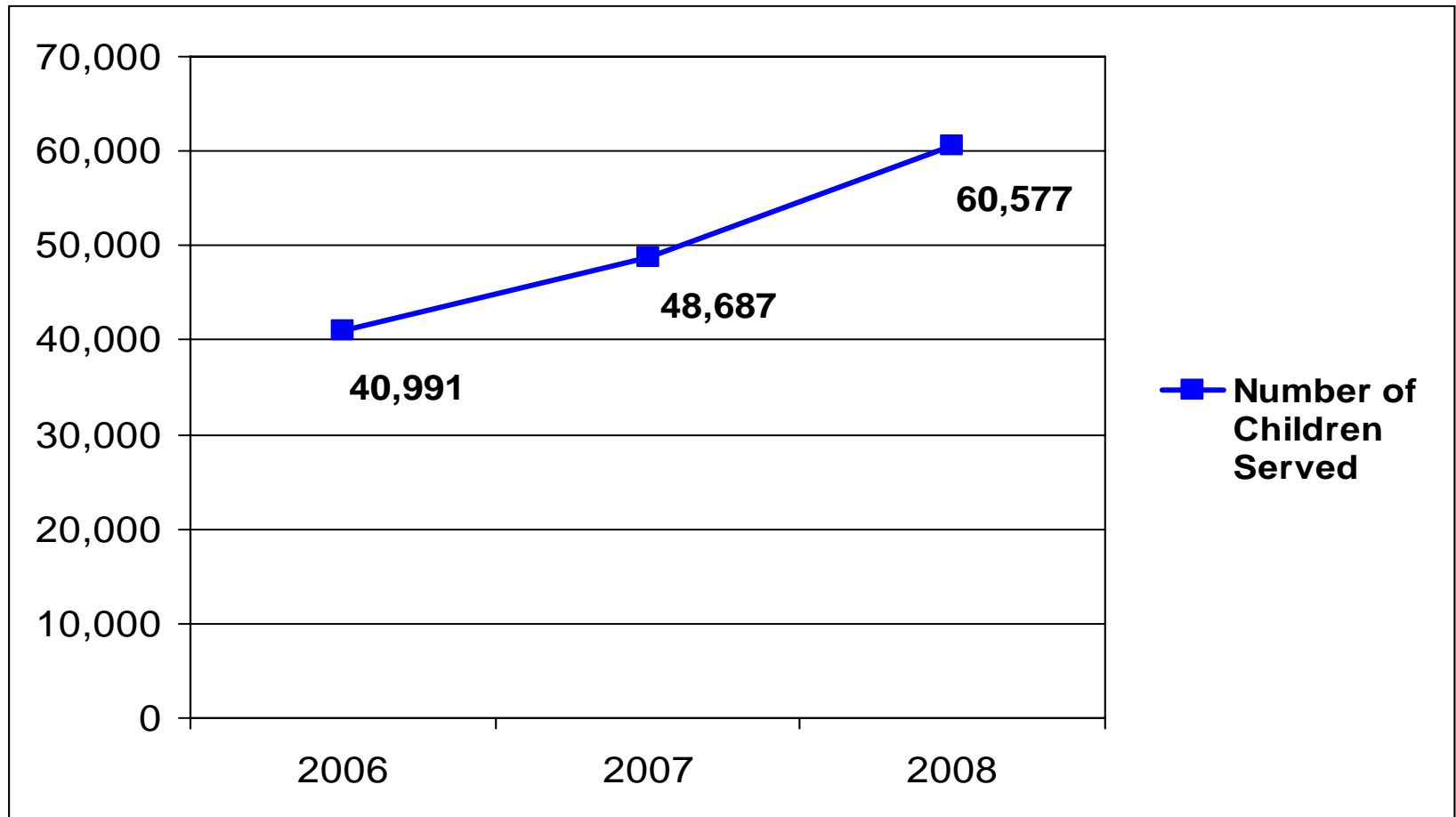
Comprehensive Services Act Expenditures Have Decreased for the First Time Since Inception of the Program



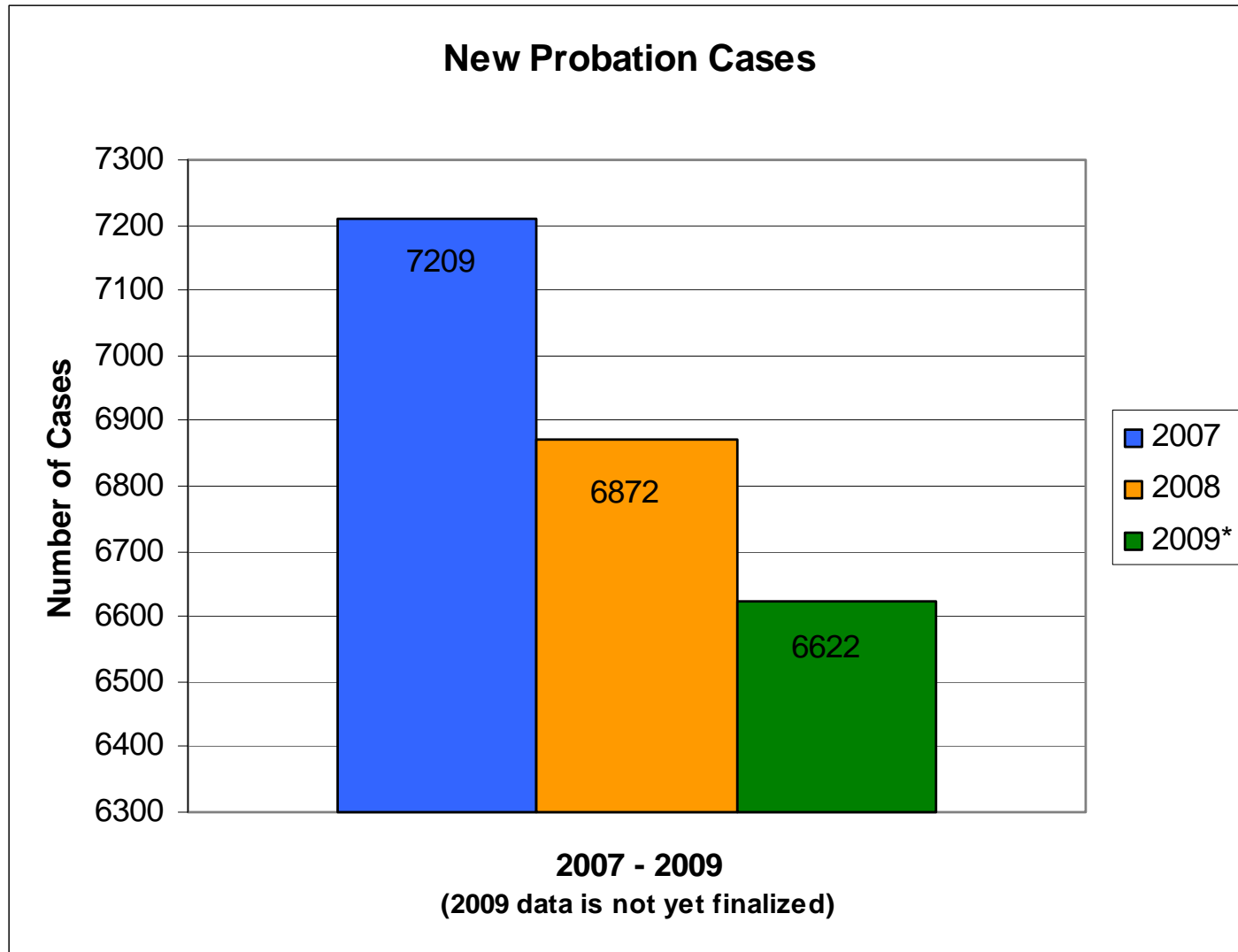
Community Based Expenditures have Increased; Group Based Expenditures have Decreased



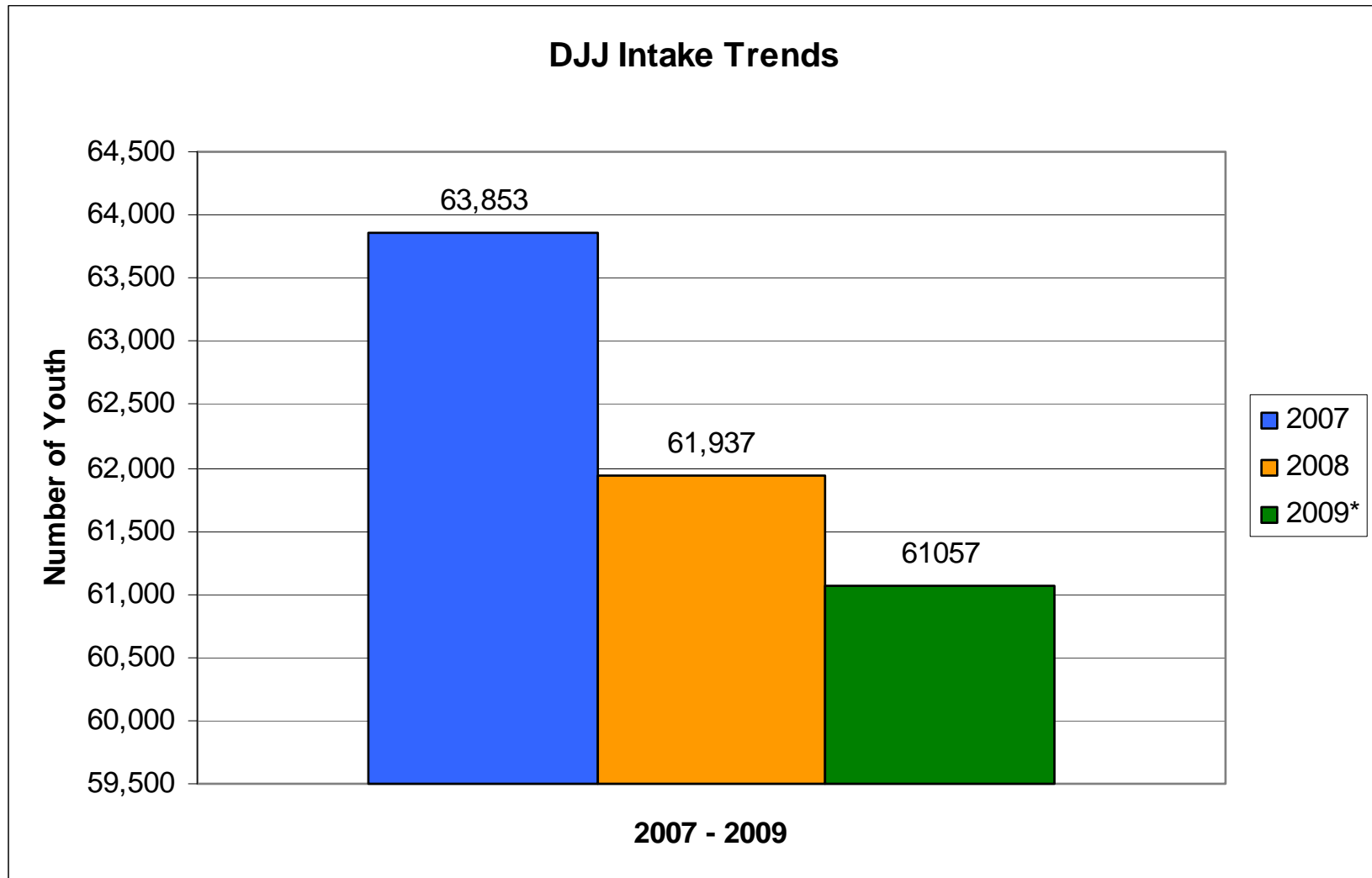
Community Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services to Children have Increased



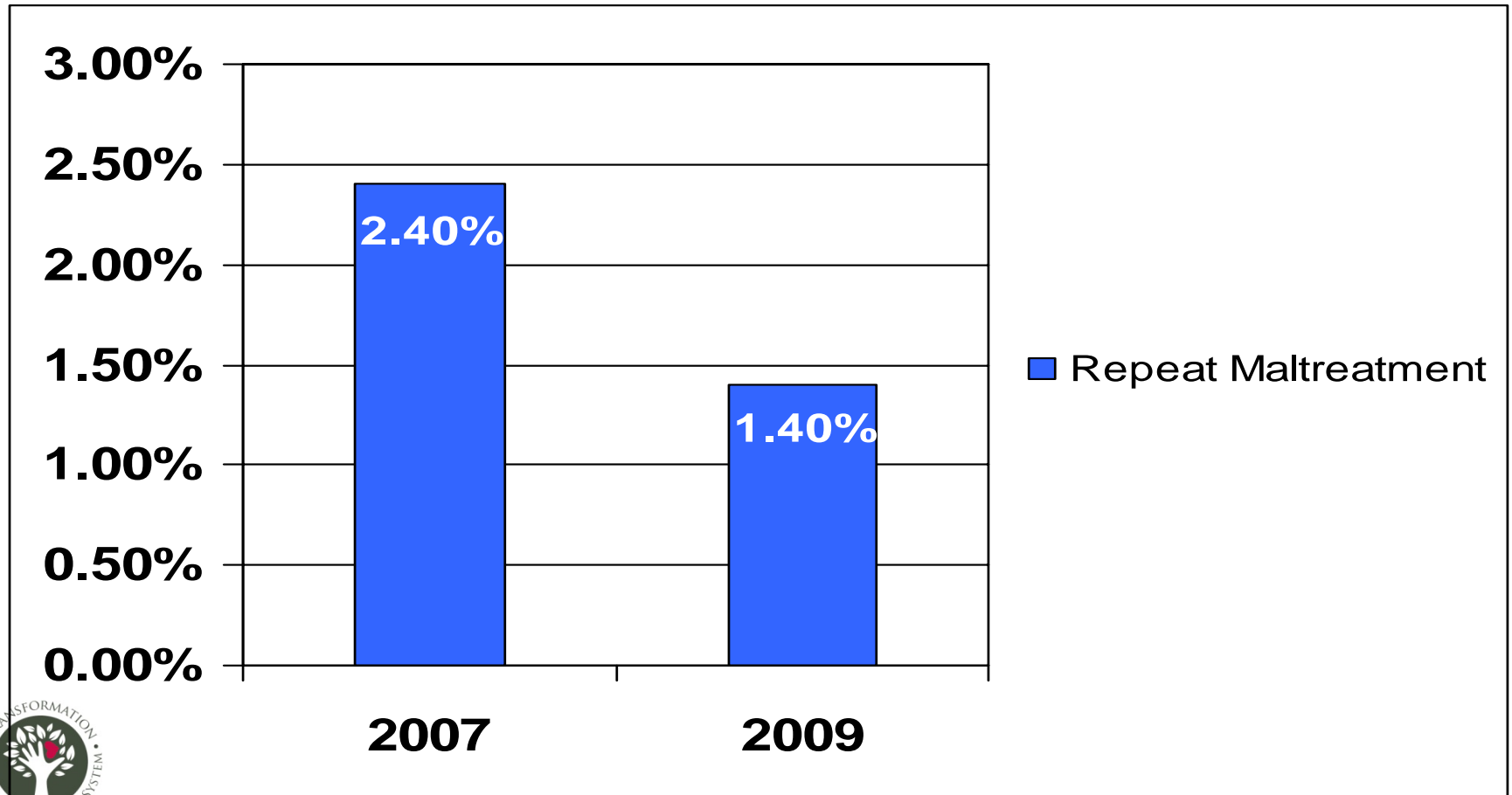
Total Number of Probation Cases Decreasing



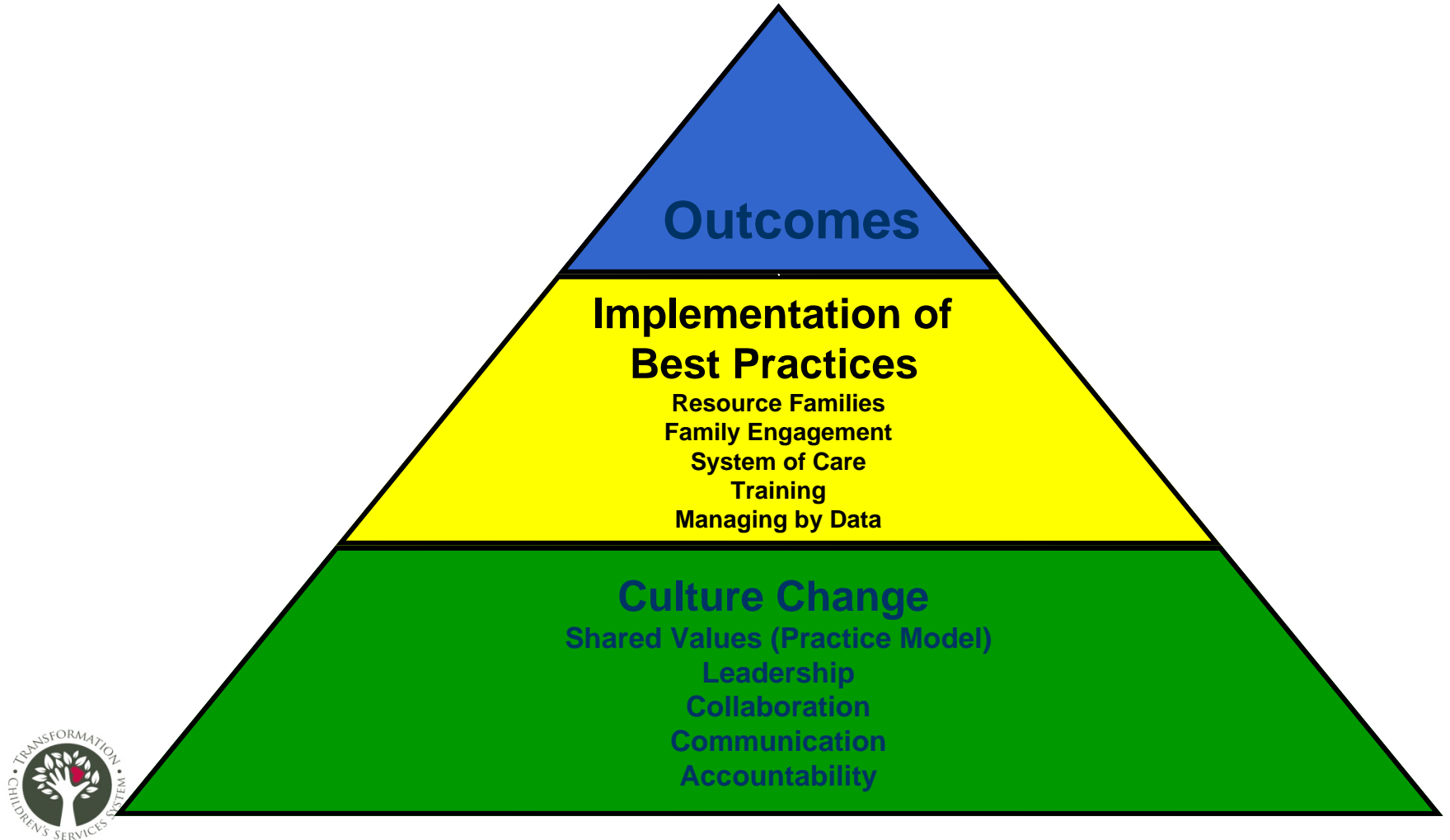
DJJ Intakes are Decreasing



Incidences of Repeat Maltreatment of Children in Foster Care are Decreasing



Transformation Strategy for Change



Contact information:
Ray.ratke@DBHDS.virginia.gov
Vafamilyconnections.com